

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	02.03.2004
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 142624.6 DK	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION	
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International application No. PCT/IL 03/00026	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.01.2002
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Applicant I.M.T. INTERFACE MULTIGRAD TECHNOLOGY LTD et al.
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1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

#### 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:	Authorized Officer
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**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
**(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)**

Applicant's or agent's file reference 142624.6 DK	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/L 03/00026	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.01.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A01N10/02		
Applicant I.M.T. INTERFACE MULTIGRAD TECHNOLOGY LTD et al.		
<p>1. This International preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</li> <li>II   <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV   <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI   <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII   <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII   <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>		
Date of submission of the demand 20.07.2003	Date of completion of this report 02.03.2004	
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Bertrand, F Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8606	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/L 03/00026

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-26 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

5-77 as originally filed  
1-4 filed with telefax on 01.12.2003

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00026

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

see separate sheet

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application,

claims Nos. 63-77

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):

the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 63-77

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-45,50-53,55-62
	No: Claims	46-49,54

Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-45,50-53,55-62
	No: Claims	46-49,54

Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-62
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00026

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL03/00026

**Re Item I**

**Basis of the report**

The documents mentioned in this International Preliminary Examination Report are numbered in accordance with the order they appear in the International Search Report.

The amendments filed with the telefax of the 01.12.03 comply with Article 34(2)b PCT, insofar as they do not introduce any subject-matter which extends beyond the application as originally filed. They are thus admissible.

**Re Item III**

**Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

As no search report has been established for the claims 63-77, the present opinion solely concerns the filed claimed 1-62.

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Lack of clarity is objected insofar as the conciseness requirement is not met by the claims. Actually, the term "concise" as it can be read in Art. 6 and Rule 6.1(a) PCT and in the PCT Guidelines PG-III 5.1, should be interpreted not only as a requirement to shorten each Claim individually, but also to reduce as much as possible the number of Claims.

The present invention relates to a method for freezing/thawing samples of larger dimensions compared to straws used for biological samples (e.g. semen) and to an apparatus therefor.

D1 describes a method for thawing biological specimens comprising a first step of warming the sample by exposing it to an intermediate temperature. The counterpart of this first step in the present invention is divided in 2 sub-steps, namely subjecting first the sample to a gradient of temperature until a part of the sample reaches the intermediate temperature and then exposing the sample to the intermediate temperature.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL03/00026

D2 relates to methods and apparatus for changing the temperature of a sample of the dimensions of a straw. The heat transfer within the sample perpendicularly to the axis of the straw can be considered to be uniform, due to the relatively small diameter of the sample. The device described in D2 appears to anticipate present claims 46-49 and 54, because the difference in sample size, which has an influence on how the device is constructed, does not appear in the present claims 46-49 and 54. The dimension of more than 0.5 cm in 2 perpendicular cross-sections is an essential feature of the present invention and is indeed directly linked the problem to be solved with respect to D2, i.e. to provide an apparatus for freezing larger (thicker) samples. All independent claims should contain this feature.

D3 relates to a method for freezing samples adapted for larger samples (over 50ml). This method implies 2 intermediate temperatures but not the use of an gradient of temperature.

With the exception of claims 46-49 and 54 as mentioned above, the present application fulfills the criteria of Article 33(2) PCT, because the claimed subject-matter is new with respect to the prior art as defined in Rule 64(1) to (3) PCT.

Assuming the lack of novelty above can be overcome, the present application would fulfill the criteria of Article 33(3) PCT, because the claimed subject-matter would involve an inventive step (Rule 65(1) and (2) PCT).

The present invention fulfills the criteria of Article 33(4) PCT, because the subject-matter of the present claims is industrially applicable.